

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 5, with the following rewritten paragraph:

**--PRIORITY CLAIM**

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/835,304 filed April 13, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,699,722, which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/197,365 filed April 14, 2000, and U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/203,696 filed May 11, 2000, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIGS. 1C-1F are schematic top views of the test strip of FIG. 1A, illustrating the progressive advancement of a liquid specimen by capillary action through the strip.